



TROJAN TODAY

YOUR SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND SOURCE FOR NEWS AND EVENTS | AUGUST 2020

2019-nCoV
coronavirus

SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND SPECIAL REPORT



“As with any uncertain situation, communication is important. We will do our best to keep you informed of any pertinent situations as it relates to re-entry and Highland’s back-to-school plans.”

Pandemic’s ongoing impact on our schools

It’s August and you can rest assured, whether your child returns to the classroom or participates in distance learning, five-day-a-week school will be back in session this month.

Throughout the summer, I have been meeting remotely with neighboring school district superintendents to work on scenarios for what the fall semester would look like for all Lake County public school students.

From the onset of this virus in Indiana, our group agreed it was important to move forward together. As the county with the second highest number of COVID-19 cases in the state, it is clear that what impacts one district impacts all of us.

A spike in cases here and around the state since early July has made decisions on reopening and what a school day will look like even more challenging.

Our first concern is for the safety of your children, your family and the School Town of Highland teachers and staff. You – and they – are our priority.



CLASS OF 2020: They hoped. They planned. They set goals. On July 24, the class of 2020 finally realized their dream to graduate with their peers. It was picture perfect weather at Highland Trojans Football Field for a ceremony under the stars. Traditional caps and gowns were accessorized with masks of the students’ choosing. For the first time in Highland history, this class took part in two unique graduation ceremonies – one virtual and one in person. Congratulations 2020 grads! [Lifetouch Photography photo]

Throughout the summer, we have installed hand-sanitizing stations in every building to help with hand hygiene and developed a mandatory mask policy for all children in grades 3-12. We’ll have some masks on hand for emergencies, but children should arrive at school with a mask. Children riding the school bus will need to wear it when they board the bus.

We have policies in place for next

steps if a positive case is reported and alternative education plans if there is an outbreak.

All of the protocols and details of the school reopening plan can be found at **highland.k12.in.us**. Please check back often, the school website is updated as new information is available.

Brian Smith
Superintendent
School Town of Highland

NEW SOUTHRIDGE PRINCIPAL

The School Town of Highland is welcoming a new principal at Southridge Elementary.



Kevin Beveridge is relocating from his native Elkhart where he was a teacher and principal for more than 26 years.

First up for Beveridge is making plans to welcome 52 students who are new to Southridge, while connecting with students and teachers in all-new ways

during the time of COVID-19.

“This is a tough time to be an elementary school student,” he said. “We want to make this year a great one, building on the outstanding academic achievements long-established at Southridge.”

FALL SPORTS UNDETERMINED

Athletic Director Ryan Harrington has high hopes for fall sports, but acknowledges a surge in the number of coronavirus cases – both locally and statewide – could alter plans dramatically as well as a decision by other school districts not to play.

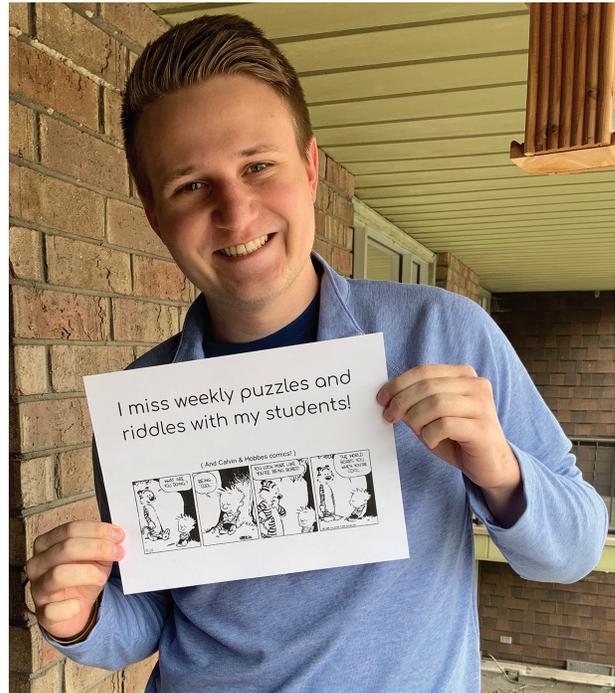
“We are keeping our fingers crossed,” Harrington said. “At the same time, we are making plans that provide the greatest possible safety for players and spectators. The district’s decision will be based on what happens next with COVID-19.”

HOW YOU CAN HELP

As schools in Highland prepare to reopen, the district is welcoming donations of masks and other personal protective equipment as well as hand wipes and hand sanitizer.

Schools across the state are being challenged to provide items to protect from the virus, which was never imagined when the annual budget was prepared last year.

INFO: Anyone wishing to donate should contact their local school or the administration at (219) 924-7400.



NEW HIGH SCHOOL MATH TEACHER

Todd Peters is a native son, a Highland High grad returning to the school where he was inspired to pursue a teaching career.

Following a year at Bishop Noll, Peters is looking forward to a return to his alma mater where he’ll teach geometry and precalculus.

The longtime volleyball coach, who spends his time outside the classroom playing ultimate Frisbee and biking, said after teaching online the second half of last year, he’s eager to get back into the classroom.

CENSUS & EDUCATION

An accurate count of Highland residents greatly impacts the funding the School Town of Highland receives for programs, such as: school lunches, adult education and special education grants.

U.S. census workers are currently visiting households throughout Lake County that have not responded to the census.

INFO: Shape the future of education. Respond today – online at 2020census.gov, by phone at (844) 330-2020 or by mail.